

## **Council on Aging Board Meeting**

**May 12, 2004**

### **In Attendance:**

Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board Members Al Crommett, Helen McLaughlin, Tim Swiss and Lillian Goodman were present. Director Sharon Yager and Vicki Zwerdling (CMAA representative) and Jacquie Lofgren (Outreach Coordinator) were also present. Chairman Paul Keegan and Secretary John Concordia were excused.

### **1. Chairman's Comments:**

Helene opened the meeting by making corrections to the April Minutes. It was clarified that any Yard Sale that takes place, while being a fundraising activity, would not be conducted by the Friends. The Minutes were then approved by the board.

Helene then read a card submitted by former Volunteer Coordinator Marcia Grillo, which thanked the Board for her opportunity to work with the COA. Marcia left effective May 7, 2004 and the new job description will be used to fill the position.

### **2. Director's Comments:**

Sharon distributed the Formula Grant for Fiscal Year 2005. \$26,597 will be available. Job descriptions and work plans additional materials from Emmett @ EOEA were distributed and discussed. There will be an intern from Holy Cross starting later this month. There is a joint COA and Commission On Disabilities event being planned for October 15<sup>th</sup> with a panel made up of Fire, Police, Emergency Management Services and a COD member. There has been some progress in updating the Access databases.

### **3. Liaison Reports:**

CMAA: --Advisory Council, *Vicki Zwerdling*

Jeffrey Sarro, the District Manager from SSA, attended the last CMAA Advisory Meeting to discuss the Medicare cards, which will be an 18 month program. Several thousand people were hired to man the 1-800-Medicare number to answer questions about Medicare cards. The complexity of the various cards available was discussed.

Friends of the SCC, Inc.:--*Helene* reported that the Friends will be holding their year end meeting on June 15, at noon at Indian Meadows. Over the past year, they have continued to support the Senior Center, primarily through the Newsletter and provide opportunities to socialize. The Friends Board has recommended a continued subsidy for the newsletter, to be renewed annually. It is hoped \$1,000 will clear through the May Madness event, but it may not be held next year due to heavy competition.

Elder Services, Worc. /Outreach: *Jacquie* was finalizing the SMOC season. There were thirty-one SMOC applications taken. The release was finalized. She met with Jeffrey Chin from SCS. Jim Slavin provided a new Health Care Proxy to be used. A special rate on Pedometers will be made available to help promote wellness. Shrewsbury Crossings has offered to provide their Nutritionist possible talk in the future. Officer Pat Babin for thanked for her assistance on a tough case. Jacquie reminded the audience that 911 should be reserved for emergencies only.

#### **4. Old Business:**

FY'05 Budget: A handout will be created regarding for the Annual Town Meeting, regarding the COA Budget in the event that there are questions asked about its slight changes.

Van Update: The Department Of Transportation was contacted regarding the question that had been brought up about holding the title for the 3<sup>rd</sup> van. The state will hold the title for five years. In the meantime, it is permissible for the Friends to gift the van to town. A letter is being drafted to follow through on this issue. Sharon also met with Dennis Osborn from the Shrewsbury Housing Authority to begin talking about developing the Memorandum of Understanding that will be created between the two agencies.

Health Fair: Lillian reported on the feedback provided via the survey data. Gabe Sebo was thanked by Lillian for volunteering to tally the data and create a report. A Health Fair Committee meeting was held May 11<sup>th</sup>. The theme was determined as: "Before and After the Health Emergency". The date will be October 1<sup>st</sup>. Few screenings are planned for this year's event. Short videos may also be shown while people wait for screenings. Fees are being planned for exhibitors to help cover expenses. Volunteer challenges that may occur were discussed. New Health Fair Committee members include Chet Olson, Pat Daly, and Alice Johnson. The next meeting will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Reviewing the Volunteer Recognition Event: The feedback that was received was all positive. Everyone agreed that the current format seems to be working out well. No changes were suggested. However, it was mentioned that cleaning up afterward may have run a little smoother. It was suggested that perhaps high school kids could help out next year.

#### **4.New Business:**

Board Elections Tim motioned that Paul to stay on as COA Board Chairman and John as Secretary. Lillian seconded. It was unknown if Helene will be staying on the Board at this time. She originally requested not to be reappointed, but asked on May 11<sup>th</sup> if she could serve a one year term. Lillian motioned that Helene's election be tabled until June. Tim seconded. Helene explained that the Vice Chair has also served as the Furnishing and Decorating Chairman, is involved with the Fall Festival committee, has worked on Newsletter troubleshooting and has acted as the Friends Liaison. She brought to the Board's attention that these will need to continue if she is not reappointed.

Kitchen Update An e-mail was sent to Bob Cox about the dishwasher and stove problems and a response is being awaited. The new public buildings tracking policy and possibility was discussed and how a staff member should sign off when the work is done. A valve has been replaced in the dishwasher earlier in the week, but it is unknown if this corrected the problem. The silverware racks are still an issue. It was mentioned that the Kitchen needs to be added to the Senior Center Comment Form.

MCOA: Sharon received word from MCOA that a line item increase has been made in the House version of the FY05 Budget for the Formula Grant. Such an increase would total around \$3,000 and would bring the COA grant amount to nearly \$30,000 if passed. However, the budget still needs to go through the Senate and Governor. The worst case scenario at this point is that level funding will occur. Helen suggested that the extra

funds, if passed, be used to change the hourly rate to \$11 for the Volunteer Coordinator and \$12 to the Outreach Coordinator.

Jackie Pratt Distributed April Statistics for the web site usage..

**5.Other:**

-Getting badges for volunteers was discussed.

-The Yard Sale was also discussed. At this point, it is uncertain if it will occur, may be postponed.

-Age Center Updates were brought up. It was mentioned that the Shrewsbury liaison for the Age Center should be contacted to see if he is willing to give reports to the Board.

*Respectively submitted,  
Sharon Yager, Director*